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nearly twelve hundred geographical miles, until the last of April. On being released, he proceeded to Greenland to refit; and during the summer of 1858 he pushed his way as far west as Bellot Strait, where his vessel was put into winter quarters at the end of September, and arrangements were at once made for prosecuting the search during the winter by means of sledge parties. The results of this search were the discovery of the fate of Sir John Franklin and his crews, and a careful examination of the neighboring coasts; and in September, 1859, Captain M'Clintock landed in England on his return, with many interesting relics of the lost voyagers, and with positive evidence that they had discovered the much-sought Northwest Passage.

His narrative is written in a manly and unambitious style, and is full of the exciting interest which always belongs to the record of Arctic voyages. Its chief interest, as we have said, is derived from the discovery of the fate of Franklin and his companions; but, apart from this, the volume comprises some new information in regard to the northern coast-line of this continent. In the Appendix are Lady Franklin's memorial to Lord Palmerston, praying for government assistance in fitting out the expedition, a list of the relics brought home by Captain M'Clintock, an interesting paper on the Arctic geology, and some other documents. The volume has also an excellent map of the Arctic regions, and several woodcut illustrations.

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15. — 1. *Life of George Washington. Written for Children.* By E. CECIL. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1859. 16mo. pp. 258.
 2. *Life of Lafayette. Written for Children.* By E. CECIL. With Six Illustrations. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1860. 16mo. pp. 218.

THESE volumes are understood to be by a lady, and are designed, we suppose, to form part of a series of biographies for children. They are written in a simple, unpretending style, with little attempt at rhetorical ornament, but from an ample knowledge of their respective subjects. With praiseworthy diligence the writer has remounted to the original sources of information, and has evidently made herself familiar with the most trustworthy authorities. Her narrative is sufficiently minute, without being prolix or tedious, and the arrangement of her materials is so orderly and natural, that the young reader will find little difficulty in following the course of events, while the incidents are so judiciously selected that he will carry away with him a perfectly clear idea of the characters here portrayed for his instruction.

In the choice of her subjects the writer has been scarcely less fortunate than in her treatment of them. There are, indeed, many lives of Washington and Lafayette in print; but we remember none so well adapted as these for the use of children. To say that the life and character of Washington should be among the subjects first studied by every American child, is simply to repeat what has been often said before; and Lafayette has always been held in especial honor in this country. It is true that English writers have studiously depreciated his merits, and that even Burke assailed him with characteristic bitterness while he was a prisoner in Olmutz; that Guizot and other French historians have spoken disparagingly of him; and that the recent biographer of Steuben, and perhaps a few other writers on this side of the Atlantic, have joined in this unfavorable criticism. But the general judgment of American writers has long since elevated him to a foremost place among those who fought the battles of the Revolution. The life-long friend of Washington, he will always be an object of affectionate admiration to American children for his bravery, his generosity, his enthusiasm for liberty, and his invaluable services to this country in the most important crisis of the war.

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16. — *A Dictionary of the English Language*. By JOSEPH E. WORCESTER, LL. D. Boston: Hickling, Swan, and Brewer. 1860. 4to. pp. lxviii., 1786.

THIS Dictionary fully justifies the years for which it has been promised and expected, and the manifold labor employed in its preparation. In all the *essentials* of a dictionary, it can safely challenge rigid examination, or any comparison to which it may be subjected. We say this, because, in a criticism extensively printed and circulated in favor of a rival interest, the comparisons made to the disparagement of this work did not relate to *essentials*, but to matters in which, not the facts of the language, but the individual taste and judgment of the respective lexicographers, were involved. As regards the secondary significations that shall be assigned to any word in common use, their larger or smaller number is a matter for purely arbitrary decision; for most of these significations are not inherent in the word itself, but are created or imagined by attaching to it a part of the meaning of other words connected with it. Thus Worcester has five, Webster twelve, meanings for *faith*; — but the smaller number is too large for the range of signification which belongs strictly to the word in itself considered; while we might easily assign to it five times twelve definitions, were we to reckon all the